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State Dept. review completed

Polish Reaction to US election

Press coverage of President Nixon's re-election was extensive and positive in Poland. Most commentary took the line that the President achieved the election victory on the strength of his foreign policy gains and particularly his detente with the Soviet Union. (His detente with China was discreetly ignored.) One paper praised him for overcoming the "warlike circles in the US" and accepting the Soviet-sponsored principles of peaceful coexistence. Polish President Jablonski and Premier Jaroszewicz sent warm congratulatory messages that were given prominent local press space. The effusive Polish reaction was not unexpected considering the regime's efforts to improve relations with the US in recent months and the lingering good-will reaffirmed during President Nixon's successful visit to Warsaw in May.

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A New Breeze from Bulgaria

Six weeks after Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov's expression to Secretary of State Rogers of hope that US-Bulgarian relations would improve, there are some slight indications that Sofia means business. Admittedly they are more in the realm of atmospherics but, nevertheless, they are a beginning.

In an abrupt turnabout, Bulgaria granted a visa to the VOA correspondent in Belgrade on 6 November after turning down a similar request in early September. Even more significant is the fact that party boss Todor Zhivkov as well as Premier Stanko Todorov have agreed to meet with Senator Symington's delegation when it visits Bulgaria. Other positive indications are agreement in principle to grant the Embassy access to American citizens in custody for narcotics offenses, an increase in the number of Bulgarians attending US functions and the recently gained access to Writers Union and newspaper editors.

All is not sunshine and flowers, however. Anti-US themes continue to play a prominent role in the Bulgarian press; the

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Bulgars curtly brushed aside an Embassy protest over the confiscation of an Embassy-leased garage, and General Fuller, head of the US attache' service, was completely ignored while in Sofia. [REDACTED]

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More Reshuffling in Romania Expected

The Embassy Bucharest reports [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] that party secretariat member Dumitru Popescu will be ousted from his party post shortly.

Popescu's fortunes have been on the decline for some time and rumors of his departure have surfaced with increasing frequency. In most instances these rumors have been coupled with stories of high-level dissatisfaction with Popescu's performance in connection with his position as President of the Council of Socialist Culture and Education. In an apparent effort to put the best face possible on Popescu's ousting, the Romanians are depicting him as suffering from high blood pressure with the implications that he will not be able to continue working much longer.

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